

Weekly Column for February 16, 2006

Last week as we watched New York City get dumped on by a classic mid-winter Nor'easter that upstate residents are all too familiar with, I heard a statistic that nearly flooded me.

During one storm alone, Central Park in Manhattan, with nearly 28 inches, received more snow than the Albany International Airport has this season. It's February 16th! While I am not sure how that is possible, I can assure you our snow removal budget is very pleased with unseasonable weather we have received thus far. That is until we see a snowstorm during the Flag Day parade.

Of course the one thing that has not gone away this winter is the prevalence of potholes throughout the City. Through a combination of the fluctuating temperatures and old streets, potholes can pop up rather quickly, and be dangerous to cars on the road.

So we are asking for your help. Whenever Mother Nature cooperates, we have a team of Public Works employees on the street filling the potholes. The process for getting a pothole filled is quite simple, but important. If you see a pothole anywhere in the City, call the Department of Public Works. The potholes will then be fixed as soon as possible. Normally that means within a 24-hour period.

As always, we ask for patience with these matters, but this is truly something you can help us with. The sooner we know about a problem, the sooner it will be fixed.

You may have noticed that we officially kicked off Zero Tolerance in the Code Enforcement this week with the demolition of a building on River Street. The owner had ignored requests for improvement from the City for the better part of one year. Zero tolerance is about stopping that type of inaction.

Next week we will introduce a hotline that residents can call 24-hours a day to report code issues in their neighborhood. We are quite serious about addressing the harmful issue of irresponsible landlords, and pledge to do whatever we can to improve the quality of life for our residents. Stay tuned.

Have a great weekend.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy